Numb. 41.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *May* 3, to Thursday *May* 10, 1711.

Dos eſt magna parentium virtus.

I Took up a Paper ſome Days ago in a Coffee-Houſe; and if the Correctneſs of the Style, and a ſuperior Spirit in it, had not immediately undeceiv'd me, I ſhould have been apt to imagine, I had been reading an *Examiner*. In this Paper, there were ſeveral Important Propoſitions advanced. For Inſtance, That *Providence rais'd up Mr. H——y to be an Inſtrument of great Good, in a very critical Juncture, when it was much wanted.* That, His *very Enemies acknowledge his eminent Abilities, and diſtinguiſhing Merit, by their unwearied and reſtleſs Endeavours againſt* His *Perſon and Reputation:* That *they have had an inveterate Malice againſt both:* That he *has been wonderfully preſerv'd from SOME unparalell'd Attempts*; with more to the ſame Purpoſe. I immediately computed by Rules of Arithmetick, that in the laſt cited Words there was ſomething more intended than the Attempt of *Guiſcard*, which I think can properly paſs but for *One* of the *SOME*. And, tho' I dare not pretend to gueſs the Author's Meaning; yet the Expreſſion allows ſuch a Latitude, that I would venture to hold a Wager, moſt Readers, both *Whig* and *Tory*, have agreed with me, that this Plural Number muſt in all Probability, among other Facts, take in the Buſineſs of *Greg*.

See now the Difference of Styles. Had I been to have told my Thoughts on this Occaſion; inſtead of ſaying how Mr. *H——y was treated by ſome Perſons*, and *preſerved from ſome unparalell'd Attempts*; I ſhould with intolerable Bluntneſs and ill Manners, have told a formal Story, of a Com——ee ſent to a Condemn'd Criminal in *Newgate*, to bribe him with a Pardon, on Condition he would Swear High Treaſon againſt his Maſter, who diſcovered his Correſpondence, and ſecur'd his Perſon, when *a certain grave Politician* had given him Warning to make his Eſcape: And by this means I ſhould have drawn a whole ſwarm of Hedge-writers to exhauſt their Catalogue of Scurrilities againſt me as a Lyar, and a Slanderer. But with Submiſſion to the Author of that foremention'd Paper, I think he has carry'd that Expreſſion to the utmoſt it will bear: For after all this Noiſe, I know of but *two Attempts* againſt Mr. *H——y*, that can really be call'd *unparalell'd*, which are thoſe aforeſaid of *Greg* and *Guiſcard*; and as to the reſt, I will engage to *parallel* them from the Story of *Cataline*, and others I could produce.

However, I cannot but obſerve, with infinite Pleaſure, that a great Part of what I have charged upon the late prevailing Faction, and for affirming which, I have been adorn'd with ſo many decent Epithets, hath been ſufficiently confirm'd at ſeveral times, by the Reſolutions of one or t'other Houſe of Parliament. I may therefore now ſay, I hope, with good Authority, that *there have been ſome unparalell'd Attempts againſt Mr.* HARLEY. That the late Miniſtry were juſtly to blame in ſome Management, which occaſion'd the unfortunate Battel of *Almanza*, and the diſappointment at *Toulon*. That the Publick has been grievouſly wrong'd by moſt notorious Frauds, during the *Whig* Adminiſtration. That thoſe who adviſ'd the bringing in the *Palatines*, were Enemies to the Kingdom. That the late Managers of the Revenue have not duly paſs'd their Accounts, for a great Part of Thirty Five Millions, and ought not to be truſted in ſuch Employments any more. Perhaps in a little time, I may venture to affirm ſome other Paradoxes of this kind, and produce the ſame Vouchers. And perhaps alſo, if it had not been ſo buſy a Period, inſtead of one *Examiner*, the late Miniſtry might have had above Four Hundred, each of whoſe little Fingers would be heavier than my Loins. It makes me think of *Neptune*'s Threat to the Winds: *Quos ego—— ſed motos præſtat componere fluctus.* Thus when theſe Sons of *Æolus*, had almoſt ſunk the Ship with the Tempeſts they rais'd, it was neceſſary to ſmooth the Ocean, and ſecure the Veſſel, inſtead of purſuing the Offenders.

But I obſerve the general Expectation at preſent, inſtead of dwelling any longer upon Conjectures who is to be Puniſh'd for paſt Miſcarriages, ſeems bent upon the Rewards intended to thoſe, who have been ſo highly inſtrumental in refcuing our Conſtitution from its late Dangers. 'Tis the Obſervation of *Tacitus*, in the Life of *Agricola*, that his eminent Services had rais'd a general Opinion of his being deſign'd, by the Emperor, for *Prætor* of *Britain*. *Nullis in hoc ſuis ſermonibus, ſed quia par videbatur:* And then he adds, *Non ſemper erret Fama, aliquando & eligit.* The Judgment of a wiſe Prince, and the general Diſpoſition of the People, do often point at the ſame Perſon; and ſometimes the popular Wiſhes, do even fortel the Reward intended for ſome ſuperior Merit. Thus among ſeveral deſerving Perſons, there are *Two*, whom the publick Vogue hath in a peculiar Manner ſingled out, as deſign'd very ſoon to receive the choiceſt Marks of the Royal Favour. *One* of them to be placed in a very high Station, and *Both* to encreaſe the number of our Nobility. This, I ſay, is the general Conjecture; for I pretend to none, nor will be chargeable if it be not fulfill'd; ſince it is enough for their Honour, that the Nation thinks them worthy of the greateſt Rewards.

Upon this Occaſion I cannot but take notice, That of all the Hereſies in Politicks, profuſely ſcatter'd by the Partiſans of the late Adminiſtration, none ever diſpleaſed me more, or ſeem'd to have more dangerous Conſequences to Monarchy, than that pernicious Talent ſo much affected, of diſcovering a Contempt for *Birth*, *Family*, and *ancient Nobility*. All the Threadbare Topicks of Poets and Orators were diſplay'd to diſcover to us, that *Merit* and *Virtue* were the only *Nobility*; and that the Advantages of *Blood*, could not make a Knave or a Fool either Honeſt or Wiſe. Moſt popular Commotions we read of in Hiſtories of *Greece* and *Rome*, took their Riſe from unjuſt Quarrels to the *Nobles*; and in the latter, the *Plebeians* Encroachments on the *Patricians*, were the firſt Cauſe of their Ruin.

Suppoſe there be nothing but Opinion in the Difference of Blood; every Body knows, that *Authority* is very much founded on *Opinion*. But ſurely, that Difference is not wholly imaginary. The Advantages of a liberal Education, of chuſing the beſt Companions to converſe with; not being under the Neceſſity of practicing little mean Tricks by a ſcanty Allowance; the enlarging of Thought, and acquiring the Knowledge of Men and Things by Travel; the Example of Anceſtors inciting to great and good Actions. Theſe are uſually ſome of the Opportunities, that fall in the way of thoſe who are born, of what we call the better Families; and allowing *Genius* to be equal in them and the Vulgar, the Odds are clearly on their ſide. Nay, we may obſerve in ſome, who by the appearance of Merit, or Favour of Fortune, have riſen to great Stations, from an obſcure Birth, that they have ſtill retain'd ſome ſordid Vices of their Parentage or Education, either *inſatiable Avarice*, or *gnominious Falſhood* and *Corruption*.

To ſay the Truth, the great neglect of Education, in ſeveral Noble Families, whoſe Sons are ſuffer'd to paſs the moſt improveable Seaſons of their Youth, in Vice and Idleneſs, have too much leſſen'd their Reputation: But even this Misfortune we owe, among all the reſt, to that *Whiggiſh* Practice of reviling the *Univerſities*, under the Pretence of their inſtilling *Pedantry*, *narrow Principles*, and *High-Church Doctrines*.

I would not be thought to undervalue *Merit* and *Virtue*, wherever they are to be found; but will allow them capable of the higheſt Dignities in a State, when they are in a very great degree of Eminence. A Pearl holds its Value tho it be found in a Dunghil; but however, that is not the moſt probable Place to ſearch for it. Nay, I will go further, and admit, that a Man of Quality without *Merit*, is juſt ſo much the worſe for his Qual-

ty;

ty; wh[illegible]t once sets his Vices in a more publick View, and r[illegible]aches him for them. But on the other side, I dou[illegible] those who are always undervaluing the Advantag[illegible] of *Birth*, and celebrating Personal Merit, have pru[illegible]pally an Eye to their own, which they are fully satisfy'd with, and which no Body will dispute with them about; whereas they cannot, without Impudence and Folly, pretend to be Nobly born: Because this is a Secret too easily discovered: For no Mens Parentage is so nicely inquir'd into, as that of assuming Upstarts; especially when they affect to make it better than it is, as they often do, or behave themselves with Insolence.

But whatever may be the Opinion of others upon this Subject, whose Philosophical Scorn for *Blood* and *Families*, reaches even to those that are *Royal*, or perhaps took its Rise from a *Whiggish* Contempt of the latter; I am pleas'd to find *Two* such Instances of extraordinary Merit, as I have mention'd, join'd with ancient and honourable Birth, which whether it be of real or imaginary Value, hath been held in Veneration by all wise, polite States, both Ancient and Modern. And, as much a Foppery, as Men pretend to think it, nothing is more observable in those who rise to great Place or Wealth, from mean Originals, than their mighty Solicitude to convince the World that they are not so low as is commonly believ'd. They are glad to find it made out by some strain'd Genealogy, that they have some remote Alliance with better Families. *Cromwel* himself was pleas'd with the Impudence of a Flatterer, who undertook to prove him descended from a Branch of the Royal Stem. I know a *Cuzen*, who adds or alters a Letter in his Name with every *Plumb* he acquires: He now wants but the change of a Vowel, to be allied to a Sovereign Prince in *Italy*; and that perhaps he may contrive to be done, by a *Mistake* of the Graver upon his Tombstone.

When I am upon this Subject of Nobility, I am sorry for the Occasion given me, to mention the Loss of a Person who was so great an Ornament to it, as the late Lord President; who began early to distinguish himself in the Publick Service, and pass'd through the highest Employments of State, in the most difficult Times, with great Abilities and untainted Honour. As he was of a good old Age, his Principles of Religion and Loyalty had receiv'd no Mixture from *late Infusions*, but were instill'd into him by his illustrious Father, and other noble Spirits, who had expos'd their Lives and Fortunes for the Royal Martyr.

Pulcherrima proles,
Magnanimi Heroes nati melioribus annis.

His first great Action was, like *Scipio*, to defend his Father, when oppress'd by Numbers; and his Filial Piety was not only rewarded with long Life, but with a Son, who upon the like Occasion, would have shewn the same Resolution. No Man ever preserv'd his Dignity better when he was out of Power, nor shew'd more Affability while he was in. To conclude: His Character (which I do not here pretend to draw) is such, as his nearest Friends may safely trust to the most Impartial Pen; nor wants the least of that Allowance which, they say, is required for those who are Dead.

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